

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/676,617

Examiner

James R. Scott

Applicant(s)

SCHULZ ET AL.

Art Unit

2832

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to PAPERS FILED ON 10/01/03 AND 02/20/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are CLAIMS 1-25.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10/01/2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

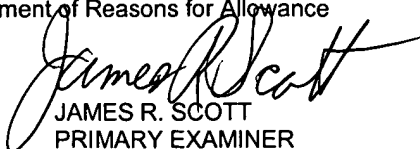
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10012003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


JAMES R. SCOTT
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GAU 2832
571-272-1999

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

No amendments have been made to the IFW application by the Examiner.

Cited References

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Swatten, Sado, Shumate, Bartley et al, the United Kingdom patent document and Parker et al constitute prior art cited by applicants pertaining to illuminated keyboard switch assemblies including backlighting assemblies to illuminate keyboard switch array.

The following references are cited by the Examiner: Boulanger discloses the use of a hinged pushbutton assembly for a keyboard multiple switch assembly. Stracener discloses the use of a backlighted illuminated keyboard. Kidd et al disclose the use of an illuminated keyboard switch assembly mounted in steering wheels. Park teaches the use of an illuminated key 24, light reflecting layer 26 and a light transmitting layer 40. The layer 30 underlying the light transmitting layer has a contact 31 attached to its undersurface of the layer 30; however Park does not teach that the layer 30 acts as a backlit, dark color reflective layer. Dugas et al disclose the use of a fully backlighted keyboard multiple switch assembly including backlighting structure located within

individual switch assemblies at each switch site. Note for example fig. 4A. Kouno et al disclose the use of an illuminated movable multiple pushbutton actuator 11 with movable contact regions 14.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not teach the use of a flexible light panel assembly located between the keypad and a circuit board, the light panel assembly including a back reflector layer located adjacent to the undersurface of the flexible light panel functioning as an upper, reflective surface of the back reflector layer and the lower back surface of the back reflector layer including movable contacts mounted on the lower back surface facing the circuit board and its fixed contact array.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

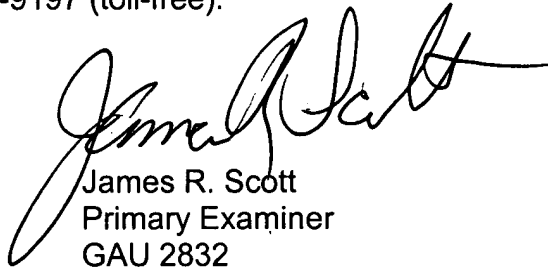
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Scott whose telephone number is (571) 272-1999. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday 1-5 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2832

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JRScott: jrs
10/12/2004



James R. Scott
Primary Examiner
GAU 2832